

NEWS RELEASE



OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

San Diego, California

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For Immediate Release

NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY - May 7, 2007

United States Attorney Karen P. Hewitt announced that Yssouf Diabate was sentenced today in U.S. District Court in San Diego by the Honorable Larry A. Burns to serve 48 months in federal custody, based on Diabate's conviction for attempting to illegally export semi-automatic firearms to the Ivory Coast.

In February 2007, a federal jury in San Diego found Diabate guilty on one count of Attempted Export of Defense Articles Without a License and one count of Smuggling Goods from the United States. According to Assistant United States Attorneys William P. Cole and John N. Parmley, who prosecuted the case, the evidence at trial established that Diabate attempted to illegally export 38 semi-automatic firearms and numerous high-capacity magazines to the Ivory Coast, a nation subject to a comprehensive arms embargo imposed by the United Nations Security Council. The evidence further established that Diabate broke the firearms down into parts, concealed most of the parts inside a large video monitor, and then tried to ship the monitor through UPS with a false shipping invoice. Unbeknownst to Diabate, he had purchased the firearms from an undercover agent of the Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

In addition to the 48-month prison sentence, Judge Burns ordered that Diabate pay a \$12,500 fine and serve a 3-year term of supervised release following his release from prison.

DEFENDANT

Criminal Case No. 06 CR 2161-LAB

Yssouf Diabate

SUMMARY OF CHARGES

Title 22, United States Code, Section 2778(b)(2) and (c) - Attempted Export of Defense Articles Without a License.

Title 18, United States Code, Section 554 - Smuggling Goods from the United States

PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Department of Homeland Security
Defense Criminal Investigative Service, Department of Defense